

1. (Currently Amended) In a computerized patient records system operated for a healthcare institution which maintains written clinical guidelines, a method of operating active guidelines comprising the steps of

a) on an active guidelines server, maintaining the clinical guidelines and also maintaining, associated with the clinical guidelines, active guideline tags containing information usable codes for actions to be taken by the computerized patient records system to generate orders;

b) at the station of a user, operating an active guidelines viewer in communication with the guidelines server, the active guidelines viewer including a web browser, an active guidelines interpreter and a URL router,

i) the active guidelines interpreter receiving the active guidelines tags and converting the active guidelines tags into a-hyperlinks ~~with a uniform resource locator (URL)~~ and passing the hyperlinks URL to the web browser ~~and the URL router~~,

ii) the web browser receiving and displaying the hyperlink URL from the active guidelines interpreter ~~to present a hyperlink~~ for the user representing the active guideline; and

c) when the user accepts ~~the a~~ a single clinical guideline by invoking ~~the a~~ a hyperlink, the URL router ~~intercepting~~ receiving the ~~hyperlink for active guidelines URLs~~ active guideline tag associated with the invoked hyperlink and creating an action item from the active guideline tag to be sent to the computerized patient records system for implementation, the action item being processed by the computerized patient record system to create an order.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the order in step (c) is issuing a prescription.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the order in step (c) is for a procedure to be performed.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the station of the user communicates with the active guidelines server over the internet.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 2 wherein the station of the user communicates with the active guidelines server over the internet.

6-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) In a multiple server computer system to operate an electronic medical records software system and order entry in a healthcare institution, a method comprising the steps of

a) providing an active guidelines server, the active guidelines server maintaining a set of clinical guidelines and a set of active guidelines tags, each of the active guidelines tags being associated with at least one of the clinical guidelines and including information usable by the records system to generate orders ~~codes for orders to be ordered~~;

b) providing a workstation at the location of a clinician, the workstation operating an active guidelines viewer, the active guidelines viewer including a web browser, an active guidelines interpreter and a URL router, the active guidelines interpreter converting the active guidelines tags into a hyperlink with a ~~uniform resource locator (URL)~~, the web browser displaying for the clinician the hyperlink associated with the clinical guidelines; and

c) when the clinician chooses a hyperlink presented by the web browser, the URL router receiving the active guideline tag associated with the chosen hyperlink ~~intercepting the hyperlink~~ and, if the chosen hyperlink is for an active guidelines order,

sending a communication to the electronic medical records software system to cause an order to be entered.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the order in step (c) is issuing a prescription.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the order in step (c) is for a procedure to be performed.

17. (Currently Amended) In a multiple server computer system to operate an electronic medical records software system and order entry in a healthcare institution, a method comprising the steps of

a) providing an active guidelines server, the active guidelines server maintaining a set of clinical guidelines and a set of active guidelines tags, each of the active guidelines tags being associated with at least one of the clinical guidelines and including information usable codes for orders to be implemented by an electronic medical records system to generate orders;

b) providing a workstation at the location of a clinician, the workstation operating an active guidelines viewer, the active guidelines viewer including a web browser, an active guidelines interpreter and a URL router, the active guidelines interpreter and the URL router ~~together both storing the codes for orders and~~ providing input to and monitoring output of the web browser, the active guidelines interpreter converting the active guidelines tags into a hyperlink ~~with a uniform resource locator (URL)~~ for the web browser, the web browser displaying for the clinician the hyperlink associated with the clinical guideline; and

c) when the clinician chooses a hyperlink presented by the web browser, the URL router receiving the active guideline tag associated with the chosen hyperlink ~~intercepting the hyperlink~~ and, if the chosen hyperlink is for an active guidelines order,

sending a communication to the electronic medical records software system containing the stored order to cause an order to be entered.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the sending of the communication to the electronic medical records software system includes sending the communication to an accumulator which accumulates communications for delivery to the electronic medical records software system.

19. (New) In a computerized patient records system operated for a healthcare institution which maintains written clinical guidelines, a method of operating active guidelines comprising the steps of:

a) on an active guidelines server, maintaining the clinical guidelines and also maintaining, associated with the clinical guidelines, active guideline tags containing information usable by the computerized patient records system to generate orders;

b) at the station of a user, operating an active guidelines viewer in communication with the guidelines server, the active guidelines viewer including a web browser;

c) an active guidelines interpreter;

d) a URL router;

i) the active guidelines interpreter receiving the active guidelines tags and converting the active guidelines tags into hyperlinks and passing the hyperlinks to the web browser,

ii) the web browser receiving and displaying the hyperlink representing the active guidelines from the active guidelines interpreter for the user representing the active guideline; and

e) when the user accepts a clinical guideline by invoking a hyperlink, the URL router receiving the active guideline tag associated with the invoked hyperlink and creating an action item from the active guideline tag to be sent to the computerized

patient records system for implementation, the action item being processed by the computerized patient record system to create an order.

20. (New) In a multiple server computer system to operate an electronic medical records software system and order entry in a healthcare institution, a method comprising the steps of

a) providing an active guidelines server, the active guidelines server maintaining a set of clinical guidelines and a set of active guidelines tags, each of the active guidelines tags being associated with at least one of the clinical guidelines and including information usable by an electronic medical records system to generate orders;

b) providing a workstation at the location of a clinician, the workstation operating an active guidelines viewer, the active guidelines viewer including a web browser;

c) an active guidelines interpreter; and

d) a URL router, the active guidelines interpreter and the URL router providing input to and monitoring output of the web browser, the active guidelines interpreter converting the active guidelines tags into a hyperlink for the web browser, the web browser displaying for the clinician the hyperlink associated with the clinical guideline; and

e) when the clinician chooses a hyperlink presented by the web browser, the URL router receiving the active guideline tag associated with the chosen hyperlink and, if the chosen hyperlink is for an active guidelines order, sending a communication to the electronic medical records software system containing the stored order to cause an order to be entered.